



Biomass Removal is Necessary to Accomplish 4FRI Restoration

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Grand Canyon Trust

- *The mission of the Grand Canyon Trust is to protect and restore the Colorado Plateau — its spectacular landscapes, flowing rivers, clean air, diversity of plants and animals, and areas of beauty and solitude.*

The Four Forests of 4FRI



Shared 4FRI Mission

- Collaboratively restore ecological resilience and function across 2.4 million acres of northern Arizona's ponderosa pine forest and associated ecosystems.



Unlikely Allies

- Small Businesses, Non-Profit Conservation Organizations, Corporations, State Agencies, Counties, Cities, Universities, and Federal Agencies



Common Vision

- Landscape-scale restoration across the ponderosa pine and associated ecosystems of northern Arizona that produces results in the following 3 arenas: fire, habitat/biodiversity, economics/recreation. Biomass removal is necessary to accomplish these results.

Common Vision

(1) Promote healthy, diverse forests that support natural fire regimes and pose little threat of destructive wildfire.



*Biomass creates ladder fuels that lead to severe crown fires. Thus biomass removal diminishes the likelihood of severe fires and supports natural historic fire regimes. In contrast, piling and burning biomass can create intolerable smoke levels and cost USFS millions of dollar per year just within the 4FRI area.

Common Vision

(2) Foster abundant populations of native plants and animals.



*Biomass removal benefits wildlife habitat by returning the forest to its natural and historic density, discouraging habitat-destroying fire, and improving understory production and biodiversity. Piling and burning biomass can cause adjacent tree mortality, degrading habitat.

Common Vision

(3) Support thriving communities, while improving aesthetic values and providing opportunities for people and communities engaged in sustainable forest activities, including recreation and forest product industries.



*In addition to direct forest industry work, restoration with biomass removal increases recreational opportunity because hiking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing are improved by access provided by less dense forests. (See APS Report)

Social & Political Challenges to Biomass Removal



- (1) Emissions – 4FRI is not battleground to settle the bioenergy carbon and particulate emissions controversy. Here, the purpose of bioenergy is to enable forest restoration. There is broad social and political support for that restoration work.

Social & Political Challenges to Biomass Removal



(2) While thinning to reduce severe wildfire in some parts of the West is controversial, it comports with the ecosystem's needs here in a frequent fire regime system.

Social & Political Challenges to Biomass Removal



(3) PJ removal questions/considerations: (i) lack scientific consensus; (ii) lack social license; (iii) challenging economics.

Conclusion

- Biomass removal in the ponderosa pine forests of 4FRI is essential to accomplish ecologically sound forest restoration while protecting thriving communities.



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